

West Region

Ontario Provincial Police
Windsor Police Service



Ambassador Bridge Protest
Feb 20th-March 4th 2022

DEMOBILIZATION PLAN
INCIDENT NUMBER: RM22009444

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DEMOBILIZATION PLAN

DATE:

21FEB-04MAR22

LOCATION:

Windsor – Ambassador Bridge

SITUATION:

On 15 Jan 2022, the Canadian government implemented a requirement for Canadian tractor-trailer drivers returning from the United States to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 if they wish to avoid quarantine and testing for COVID-19 upon re-entry to Canada. American truck drivers who are unvaccinated will be turned back at the border. The vaccination requirement has been met with opposition resulting in the organization of slow-rolling blockades on major Canadian highways, including at or near border points, designated as “FREEDOM CONVOY 2022” and “OPERATION BEARHUG”.

On the 7th Feb 2022, vehicles and persons blocked access to the Ambassador Bridge. Huron Church Road, Wyandotte Street, College Ave were all impacted by protest activity.

On the 12-13th Feb 2022 a Public Order Unit (POU) Operation in conjunction with a Towing Plan was successfully implemented clearing protestors from the area. A Traffic Management Plan was developed to control access to Huron Church Road and prevent further protest activity.

Traffic Checkpoints, Quick Response Teams, Interdiction Teams, and Patrol Areas were established to monitor and control vehicle and pedestrian access.

Intelligence information has continued to be provided in relation to potential protest activity with the Ambassador Bridge being a target. The Ambassador Bridge is a major economic driver for Canada with 700 million dollars’ worth of product crossing the bridge on a daily basis.

The OPP has worked in conjunction with Windsor Police Service to provide support with incident command, personnel, and planning.

The demobilization plan is developed as a strategy to reduce resources and return traffic flow and operations to a sustainable level ensuring response is measured, considered, and appropriate.

MISSION STATEMENT

The OPP will keep the peace, enforce legislation while maintaining the safe flow of traffic and respecting individuals Charter Rights to peaceful assembly and freedom of speech. Public safety and officer safety is paramount.

EXECUTION

Planning Assumptions:

As with any event of this nature, operational response is based on information and intelligence available during the planning phase. Assuming all information remains relatively consistent; WR personnel will maintain a presence appropriate for this incident.

This plan is based on previous police responses to protests, including slow moving vehicles, and blockade/convoys. It builds on previous experience, and recognizes the need for flexibility in its approach.

The Demobilization Plan should be thought of in terms of a de-escalation in police response that is a considered and measured approach that is appropriate to the circumstances. Events associated with highway blockade/convoys shall be addressed at the lowest competent level in an effort to affect a peaceful resolution adhering to the principals of a measured response. For policing, public safety is the priority. We intend to ensure that this priority is served in the best way possible and will respond to any issues in an appropriate and professional manner. The police will be responsible for maintaining public peace and public safety. We will act to preserve both.

The overall goal is to have individuals act in a lawful and civil manner, but circumstances may require police intervention for public safety reasons. The intent is to constantly communicate the police position and to de-escalate the potential of conflict at this incident.

Demobilization Response:

A proportional response to protest activity and returning Huron Church Road to being accessible to motorists and pedestrians.

This plan is developed based on current information and circumstances. If information or protest activity changes the demobilization plan will need to be paused and/or re-evaluated based on current circumstances.

Main Action Plan:

Maintain a safe flow of traffic to and from the Ambassador Bridge.

Traffic Plan:

Huron Church Road has been target hardened to prevent traffic from crossing east/west. A staged approach to re-opening east/west intersections will be required with continual re-assessment based on traffic flow and intelligence information.

Intersection	Potential Re-Opening Date	Actual Re-Opening Date
Industrial Road/Northwood St	16FEB22	16FEB22
Tecumseh	20FEB22	20FEB22
Malden	23FEB22	
Prince/Totten	27FEB22	
Girardot	10MAR22	
College	13MAR22	

PERSONNEL - ONGROUND

This is the anticipated number of officers that are required based on the re-opening of intersections.

This is the list per shift.

The week of 21-27FEB will be a combined number of OPP and WPS members, with WPS then being accountable for the members subsequently.

Duty	21-27FEB (86 - Combined)	28FEB-6MAR (22 - WPS)	7-13MAR (16- WPS)	14-20MAR (6 - WPS)
Incident Command	2	1	1	0
Checkpoints	40	6	4	0
Patrol	4	0	0	0
QRT	12	8	6	4
IT	8	4	4	2
Security	4	1	0	0
Relief/Roaming	10	2	1	0
Shuttle/Coach Bus	4	0	0	0

MEDIA

Windsor PS Media Relations will be available to assist with media releases as required. In the event of a full or partial closure of the Ambassador Bridge or surrounding roadways the Media Relations Officer will immediately disseminate a media release/social media posts providing the public with closure information.

WINDSOR PS CRIME UNIT

Immediate notification is to be made through the Incident Commander for any requests for Crime Unit assistance.

ADMINISTRATION

UNIFORM

All members reporting for deployment at this event will be in **General Duties full uniform dress order #2 for a General Duties Detachment Member (*not a specialized duty function*) equipped with a portable radio, traffic vest and rain coat in the event of inclement weather.**

BRIEFINGS

All briefings will occur at the Windsor Police Training Centre – 4007 Sandwich Street. Briefings will be held the first day of deployment and top up information will be provided as necessary.

Arrest Authorities

Section 495 of the Criminal Code of Canada:

Arrest without warrant by Peace officer

495. (1) A Peace officer may arrest without warrant

(a) A person who has committed an indictable offence or who, on reasonable grounds, he believes has committed or is about to commit an indictable offence;

(b) A person whom he finds committing a criminal offence; or

(c) A person in respect of whom he has reasonable grounds to believe that a warrant of arrest or committal, in any form set out in Part XXVIII in relation thereto, is in force within the territorial jurisdiction in which the person is found.

SUMMARY OF PROVINCIAL OFFENCES RE: TRAFFIC DISRUPTIONS:

The following is a summary of possible charges pertaining to disrupting traffic via slowdown, stoppage, or unsafe driving activity:

Careless Driving: S. 130 (1) HTA Every person is guilty of the offence of driving carelessly who drives a vehicle or street car on a highway without due care and attention or without reasonable consideration for other persons using the highway.

Unnecessary Slow Driving Prohibited: S. 132 (1) HTA No motor vehicle shall be driven on a highway at such a slow rate of speed as to impede or block the normal and reasonable movement of traffic thereon except when the slow rate of speed is necessary for safe operation having regard to all the circumstances.

Direction of Traffic by Police Officer: S. 134(1) HTA Where a police officer considers it reasonably necessary (a) to ensure orderly movement of traffic; (b) to prevent injury or damage to persons or property; or (c) to permit proper action in an emergency, he or she may direct traffic according to his or her discretion, despite the provisions of this Part, and every person shall obey his or her directions.

U-turns Prohibited: S. 143 HTA No driver or operator of a vehicle upon a highway shall turn the vehicle so as to proceed in the opposite direction when, (a) upon a curve where traffic approaching the vehicle from either direction cannot be seen by the driver of the vehicle within a distance of 150 meters;(b) on a railway crossing or within 30 meters of a railway crossing;(c) upon an approach to or near the crest of a grade where the vehicle cannot be seen by the driver of another vehicle approaching from either direction within 150 meters; or (d) within 150 meters of a bridge, viaduct or tunnel where the driver's view is obstructed within such distance.

Blocking Intersection: S. 145 (1) HTA The council of a municipality may by by-law prohibit a driver or street car operator approaching, at an intersection, a traffic control signal showing a circular green or green arrow indication from entering the intersection unless traffic in front of him or her is moving in a manner that would reasonably lead him or her to believe he or she can clear the intersection before the signal indication changes to a circular red indication.

Slow Vehicles to Travel on Right Side: S. 147 (1) HTA Any vehicle travelling upon a roadway at less than the normal speed of traffic at that time and place shall, where practicable, be driven in the right-hand lane then available for traffic or as close as practicable to the right hand curb or edge of the roadway.

Passing Meeting Vehicles: S. 148(1) HTA Every person in charge of a vehicle on a highway meeting another vehicle shall turn out to the right from the center of the roadway, allowing the other vehicle one-half of the roadway free.

Backing prohibited, speed limit over 80kph: S. 157 HTA No driver of a vehicle shall back the vehicle upon the roadway or shoulder of any highway divided by a median strip on which the speed limit is in excess of 80 kilometers per hour.

Parking on Roadway: S. 170 (1) HTA No person shall park, stand or stop a vehicle on a roadway, (a) when it is practicable to park, stand or stop the vehicle off the roadway; or (b) when it is not practicable to park, stand or stop the vehicle off the roadway unless a clear view of the vehicle and of the roadway for at least 125 meters beyond the vehicle may be obtained from a distance of at least 125 meters from the vehicle in each direction upon the highway.

Racing, Stunts, etc., Prohibited: S. 172(1) HTA No person shall drive a motor vehicle on a highway in a race or contest, while performing a stunt or on a bet or wager.

Regulating or Prohibiting Use of Highway by Pedestrians: S. 185 (1) HTA The Minister may make regulations prohibiting or regulating the use of any highway or part thereof by pedestrians or animals or any class or classes of vehicles. Removing pedestrians - (3) Where a pedestrian is on a highway in contravention of a regulation made or by-law passed under this section, a police officer may require the pedestrian to accompany him or her to the nearest intersecting highway on which pedestrians are not prohibited and the pedestrian shall comply with the request.

Prohibiting Commercial Vehicles in Left Lane: S. 186 (1) HTA The council of a municipality may by by-law prohibit the operation of, (a) a commercial motor vehicle other than a bus; or (b) any combination of a commercial motor vehicle and a towed vehicle, that exceeds 6.5 meters in

length, in the left lane of any highway under its jurisdiction that has three or more lanes for traffic in each direction and on which the speed limit is 80 kilometers per hour or more.

Restricted Use of Left Lanes by Commercial Motor Vehicles: R.R.O. 1990, REGULATION 608 1. (1) Subject to subsection (2), no person shall operate a commercial motor vehicle or any combination of a commercial motor vehicle and a towed vehicle that exceeds 6.5 meters in length, except a bus, an ambulance or a fire apparatus, in the left lane or, where the left lane has been designated as a high occupancy vehicle lane, in the lane adjacent to the high occupancy vehicle lane of those portions of a highway described in the Schedules. R.R.O. 1990, Reg. 608, s. 1 (1); O. Reg. 619/05, s. 1 (1); O. Reg. 201/16, s. 1. (2) Subsection (1) does not apply to a commercial motor vehicle engaged in maintenance or construction or where an emergency requires the use of the lane by a commercial motor vehicle. R.R.O. 1990, Reg. 608, s. 1 (2); O. Reg. 619/05, s. 1 (2).

Use of Controlled-Access Highways by Pedestrians R.R.O. 1990, REGULATION 627 1. (1) Subject to subsection (2), pedestrians are prohibited from using those parts of the controlled-access highways described in Schedule 1. O.Reg. 255/04, s. 1 (1).

(2) Subsection (1) does not apply to pedestrians, (a) engaged in police, highway maintenance, highway construction or vehicle inspection duties; (b) within commuter parking lots established and maintained by the Ministry or proceeding directly between such lots and adjacent intersecting highways; (c) within truck inspection stations or pulp load check areas established and maintained by the Ministry; (d) making use of a controlled-access highway where the use is necessary because of an emergency; or (e) crossing at a traffic control signal or a crosswalk. 2. Where a highway is referred to in a schedule by a number or name, the reference is to that part of the King's Highway or to the private toll highway that is known thereby.

PUBLIC ORDER SUMMARY OF CRIMINAL CODE OFFENCES

The following are summaries of applicable sections of the Criminal Code of Canada, in relation to a Public Order Unit incident. The Criminal Code should be referred to for the actual section. The crowd/individuals must be advised that they cannot go beyond a certain point as identified by the officer and to do so, constitutes a criminal offence of Obstructing a Peace Officer and that they will be arrested. Once they make a physical attempt to breach or circumvent the line, the offence has been met and they can be processed accordingly. In order to process in court however, ERT/Uniform members would be expected to provide the evidence of the caution prior to the offence and the evidence of the physical breach or attempt to breach the line.

Offences relating to Resisting or Obstructing Public or Peace Officer - Section 129:

Everyone who resists or willfully obstructs a public or peace officer engaged in the execution of his duty or anyone acting in their aid is guilty of a dual offence.

Protection of Persons Administering and Enforcing the Law - Section 25: Everyone required or authorized by law to do anything in the administration or enforcement of the law, is if he acts on reasonable grounds, justified in doing what he is required or authorized to do and in using as much force as is necessary for that purpose.

Excessive Force - Section 26: Everyone who is required by law to use force is criminally responsible for any excess.

Use of Force to Prevent Commission of Offence - Section 27: Everyone is justified in using as much force as is reasonably necessary to prevent the commission of an offence.

Arrest for Breach of the Peace - Section 31: Every Peace Officer who witnesses a breach of the peace is justified in arresting any person whom he finds committing the breach or on reasonable grounds, he believes is about to join in or renew the breach of the peace.

Use of Force to Suppress Riot - Section 32: Every peace officer is justified in using or in ordering the use of, as much force as the peace officer believes, in good faith and on reasonable grounds, is necessary to suppress a riot.

Duty of Officers if Rioters do not disperse - Section 33: Where the proclamation referred to in section 67 has been read or an offence against paragraph 68 has been committed, it is the duty of a peace officer and of a person lawfully required to assist him, to disperse or to arrest persons who do not comply with the proclamation.

Unlawful Assembly - Section 63: An unlawful assembly consists of three or more persons who, with intent to carry out any common purpose, assemble as to cause persons in the area to fear on reasonable grounds that they will disturb or cause others to disturb the peace tumultuously.

Riot - Section 64: A riot is an unlawful assembly that has begun to disturb the peace tumultuously.

Punishment of Rioter - Section 65: Everyone who takes part in a riot is guilty of an indictable offence.

Punishment for Unlawful Assembly - Section 66: Everyone who is a member of an unlawful assembly is guilty of a summary offence.

Reading Proclamation - Section 67: A person who is a Justice, Mayor or Sheriff, or the lawful deputy of a Mayor or Sheriff receives notice within their jurisdiction that twelve or more persons are unlawfully and riotously assembled together shall go to that place and from a place of safety read the Proclamation in a loud voice.

Offences Related to Proclamation - Section 68: Everyone is guilty of an indictable offence and liable to imprisonment for life who: opposes, hinders, or assaults the person reading or is about to read the proclamation, or does not peaceably disperse and depart the area within 30 minutes after the proclamation is made.

Causing Disturbance - Section 175: Everyone who causes a disturbance in or near a public place by: fighting, screaming, shouting, swearing, singing or using insulting or obscene language, by being drunk or by impeding or molesting others persons is guilty of a summary conviction offence.

Assaulting a Peace Officer - Section 270: Everyone commits an offence who assaults a public or peace officer engaged in the lawful execution of his duty or a person acting in the aid of an officer. Or a person with intent to resist arrest or prevents the lawful arrest or detention of himself or another person.

Intimidation - Section 423(1)(g): Everyone commits intimidation where a person intending to compel someone to abstain from doing something he has a right to do; wrongfully and without authority uses violence or threats of violence; or blocks a highway

Mischief - Section 430: Everyone commits mischief, who willfully destroys or damages property; renders property dangerous or useless; obstructs interrupts or interferes with the lawful use and enjoyment of property.

Arson - Section 433: Every person who intentionally or recklessly causes damage by fire or explosion to property whether or not if he owns it or not is guilty of an indictable offence and liable to life imprisonment.

Disobeying Order of Court - Section: 127(1): Everyone who, without lawful excuse, disobeys a lawful order made by a court of justice or by a person or body of persons authorized by any Act to make or give the order, other than an order for the payment of money, is, unless a punishment or other mode of proceeding is expressly provided by law, guilty of:

Emergency Management & Civil Protection Act

The COVID-19 Enforcement Support Line has been established at **1-866-389-7638**. Assistance is available daily from 0800-2100hrs. This toll-free line is available to provide support to policing personnel regarding the enforcement of emergency orders under the EMCPA.

Failing to correctly identify oneself could be considered any of the following:

Section 7.0.11(1)(a)

1. Fail to comply with an order made during a declared emergency

• Set Fine: \$750.00

2. Obstruct any person exercising a power in accordance with an order made during a declared emergency

• Set Fine: \$1,000.00

3. Obstruct any person performing a duty in accordance with an order made during a declared emergency

• Set Fine: \$1,000.00

Failure to comply with an emergency order carries a fine of up to \$100,000 for individuals and \$10,000,000 for corporations.

The following is the link to the COVID-19 Front line Officer Guide

<http://oppapp1233.opp.gov.on.ca/COVIDTool/covid>

P.O.A. Tickets

There will be a supply of PON's at the Petrolia and Point Edward Detachments. Please drop off any unused tickets at the detachment prior to departure. Please bring your own ticket book covers.

All POA notices (front copy only) MUST be left with the Detachment Administrative Clerks.

The back copy is to be retained by the investigating officer for their records.

Part III Tickets

A brief **MUST** be completed for **ALL** Part III tickets. MTO electronic records are required for Drive under Suspension charges. MTO electronic records are required for Use Plates Not Authorized and No Insurance charges; Permit Use No Insurance and are the responsibility of the investigating officer. Please review court schedule for proper court dates for related offences.

COMMAND AND CONTROL

WPS CRITICAL INCIDENT COMMANDER	Insp. Karel DeGraaf Cell: [REDACTED] Supt. Jason Crowley Cell: [REDACTED]
OPP CRITICAL INCIDENT COMMANDER	Supt. Dana Earley Cell: [REDACTED]
WPS ON GROUND SUPERVISOR	S/Sgt Chris Werstein Cell: [REDACTED] S/Sgt. Duke Ing Cell:
OPP INCIDENT COMMANDERS	A/Insp. Wendy Burrow Cell: [REDACTED] S/Sgt. Jamie Smith Cell: [REDACTED] S/Sgt. Davide Barnabi Cell: [REDACTED]
OPP PROVINCIAL LIAISON TEAM	PC Jason Richardson Cell: [REDACTED] Sgt Mike Acton Cell: [REDACTED]
WINDSOR FIRE DEPARTMENT	519-253-6573 9-1-1 for emergency
WINDSOR-ESSEX EMS	Deputy Chief Ryan LeMay [REDACTED] District Chief John Conlon [REDACTED]

MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION	Geddes Mahabir – Maintenance Supervisor [REDACTED]
MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION	West Region Traffic Operations [REDACTED]
CANADIAN BORDER SERVICES AGENCY (CBSA) OPERATIONS CENTRE AMBASSADOR BRIDGE	[REDACTED]

COMMAND POST

The Command Post will be located at 1587 Provincial Road Windsor – Fire Hall 6 – Emergency Operations Centre

PATROLS

Designated Sergeant will be assigning members to specific roles, i.e. Traffic Management roles.

WINDSOR PS Dispatch

519-258-6111

Personal Protective Equipment

- All members have been provided the proper PPE and sufficient amount during this current COVID-19 pandemic. Members are reminded to utilize PPE when in close proximity to the general public and when going “hands on” to affect an arrest.